the General Manager of the Unit has admitted the clinkering and damaging of some of the retorts due to which the increase in demand of the gas could not be made with the existing retort benches?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) The main products of low temperature carbonisation plant are, gas and coke. Tar and other chemicals like ammonium sulphate, phenols cresols, xylenols etc. are termed as by-products.

(b) The bench distillation section of the tar distillation plant is under commissing. The bench distillation section could not be commissioned earlier because of non-avlaiability of sufficient steam due to low capacity operation of the plant on account of restricted off-take of gas.

(c) The ammonium sulphate section could not be commissioned due to development of leakage in the pipe line.

(d) to (f) Coal India Limited has reported that no damage of permanent nature had been noticed in retort benches No. 1 & 2. Only clinker formation at the bottom portion of some retorts was taking place resulting in drop in productivity. Some of the retorts have already been creaned out and put back into normal operation and other retors are under the process of cleaning of clinkers.

Expanding and Improving use of coal

715. SHRI ASHOK MITRA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total outlay proposed in each year of the Eighth Five Year Plan period on research and development for the purpose of expanding and improving the use of coal as a source of energy; and

(b) whether Government have any proposal to increae such outlays serveral fold in view of the foreign exchange saving potential of domestic coal development programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) and (b) A total capital outlay of Rs. 87 crores had been envisaged during the Eighth Plan period (1992-97) on various applied Research and Development activities covering areas like production, productivity and safety, coal beneficiation, coal utilisation, environment and ecology etc.

During the first three years of the Eighth Plan (1992-95), Research and development projects with an outlay of about Rs. 55 crores have been sanctioned/taken up. For the balance two years of the Plan period, the allocation depends on the Annual Plan exercises based on the status of various Research & Development schemes taken up/proposed.

Mobile hospitals in the coalfields

716. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have introduced mobile hospitals in the Coalfields to provide emergency medical help to its employees;

(b) if so, the Coalfields of different States where such a system has been introduced; and

(c) the detailed norms and guidelines introduced therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Mobile Clinics have been introduced in Eastern Coalfields Ltd. (West Bengal, Bihar), Bharat Coking Coal Ltd. (Bihar & West Bengal),